

## 50 Common Word Roots for the GRE

Below find a list of **50 common word roots, prefixes, and suffixes** that may help you on the GRE, as well as some words that use each of those roots. This list was drawn up by looking at what roots appeared repeatedly on official GRE prep materials.

<b>Root, Prefix, or suffix</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Examples</b>
a-	without	amoral, amorphous, asexual
ambi-	on both sides	ambidextrous, ambivalent
ante-	before or in front	antecedent, antedate
anti-	against	antipathy, antisocial
aqu/aqua-	water	aquatic, aqueous, aquarium, aqueduct
bene-	good	benefit, benediction, benevolent
bi-	two	bifurcate, biannual, bisect
bio-	life	biology, biography, biome
cede/ceed	go or yield	precede, exceed, recede
circum-	around	circumscribe, circumnavigate, circumvent
contra-	against or opposite	contradiction, contraception, controversy

cycl	circle	bicycle, cyclical
de-	reduce or remove	deescalate, defenestrate, decelerate
di-, dis-	apart or away	digress, disappear, diverge
dict	speak or say	edict, dictation, dictator, prediction, contradiction
dox	belief	orthodox, paradox, heterodox
du-, duo-	two	dual, duology, duochrome
em-, en-	into, in	embrace, enclose, encircle
esce	becoming	coalesce, adolescence, obsolescent, tumescent
ex-	out or way	exit, exhale, extirpate, exile
extra-, extro-	beyond or outside	extraordinary, extraterrestrial
fid/e	faith	bonafide, fidelity, confide
fore	before, previously, earlier	forestall, before, forebear, forebode, forecast
gram	writing, letters	diagram, grammar, epigram, telegram
graph	writing, recording	stenography, autograph, graphics

hetero-	different	heterosexual, heterozygous, heterogeneous, heterodox
homo-	same	homogenous, homosexual, homologous
hyper-	excessive	hyperactive, hyperbole
hypo-	under, below	hypothermia, hypocrite, hypoglycemic
inter-	between	intercede, interlude
intra-/intro-	inside, within	introvert, intramural, intravenous
junct	joining	junction, conjunction, disjunct
-less	without	listless, aimless, heartless
-logy	the study of	biology, geology, psychology
mal, male	bad, evil	malediction, malice
mis-	bad or incorrect	misprint, misbehave, misstep
-ness	state of being	likeness, greatness
non-	not, without	nonfiction, nonresident
ob-	against or before	obdurate, obfuscate
omni-	all, everything	omnipotent, omniscient, omnivorous

pedi, pede	foot	pedestrian, pedicure
phil	love or affinity	bibliophile, philanthropy
pre-	before or earlier	pretest, preamble
pro-	before or forward	proceed, prologue
re-	again, backwards	reaction, rebound, reuse
sub-	under or lower	submarine, subprime
temp	time	temporal, contemporary, temporarily
tort	twist	tortuous, contortion
trans-	across or beyond	transnational, transit
un-	not or opposite	unimpressive, unwanted, unwarranted